

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The need for a free and unbiased media is more important than ever with this year's election cycle. Media conglomerates are influencing what is being seen and heard regarding various political campaigns thus impacting public opinion. Consolidation of media power increasingly places corporate interests above the interests of citizens- to keep check on government power and to call attention to issues that need addressing. It is shameful that the government has been attempting to facilitate this power grab by media corporations.